

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/644,962

Examiner

Amir Alavi

Applicant(s)

MITCHELL ET AL.

Art Unit

2624

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to The amendment received on 03/26/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11, 19-22 and 26 (now renumbered as 1-16).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## **Response to Arguments**

- Applicant's amendment received on 26 March 2007, by cancellation of the non-Elected Group II, namely, claims 12-18 and 23-25, has placed this Application in condition for Allowance.
- In the Response, as well as a telephone call from Applicant's representative, Mr. Marshall M. Curtis, was a request in pointing out the combination/subcombination.
- In this Regard, as clearly pointed out in the Office Action regarding Election/Restriction requirements, page 2, lines 15-18, the combination is the Decoding processing, while the subcombination was addressed as format type compression.

## Reasons for Allowance

- The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention is directed towards a method for improving decoding throughput of compressed image data. The closest prior art, Nelson et al. (USPN 5,170,445), shows a similar system, in which, a code parser decodes coded compressed image information into an intermediate code. A code expander operating asynchronously relative to the code parser decompresses the compressed image information in accordance with such decoded information. A window register in the code parser has a length at least as long as the longest code in the intermediate code. When the intermediate code indicates a pattern in one line in a raster scan of an image corresponding to a pattern in an immediately preceding line, the window register and associated circuitry scan the one line and provide for the decompression in such line in accordance with the decompression at the corresponding positions in the preceding line. However, Nelson et al. fail to address: "for recompressing an intermediate code in accordance with a compressed format compatible with a hardware image

decoder forming recompressed image data, said recompressing step being performed in a lossy manner and decoding said recompressed image data with said hardware image decoder, whereby software processing for decoding of said compressed image data is reduced by hardware decoding of said recompressed image data". These distinct features have been added to the sole independent claim and renders it allowable.

- Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
- Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amir Alavi whose telephone number is 571-272-7386. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu.. 8:00 am thru 6:30pm.
- If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eileen D. Lillis can be reached on 571-272-6928. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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- Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.
- Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AA  
Technology Division 2624  
03 April 2007

AMIR ALAVI  
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER  
*Amir Alavi*